

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend page 10, lines 24 to 29, to recite:

Figure 1: Nucleotide sequence (SEQ ID NO: 29) of and amino acid (SEQ ID NO: 30) sequence encoded by the cDNA CIG235. The various oligonucleotides used to isolate the complete cDNA are indicated on this sequence. The arrows indicate the 5' to 3' orientation of these oligonucleotides.

Figure 2: Comparison of the amino acid sequences of the bHLH domain of Relax (SEQ ID NO: 31) with other proteins of the family, including Math-1 (SEQ ID NO: 32), Neurod (SEQ ID NO: 33), and Mash1 (SEQ ID NO: 34). The homologous amino acids are noted in black, and the amino acids of similar structure in grey.

Please amend page 11, lines 7 to 10, to recite:

Figure 4: The amino acids sequences encoded by hngn3 (SEQ ID NO: 39), ngn3 (SEQ ID NO: 37), relax (SEQ ID NO: 38), ngn1 (SEQ ID NO: 36), ngn2 (SEQ ID NO: 40), and neuroD3 (SEQ ID NO: 35) genes were aligned using the Clustal-X program. The identity between the amino acid residues is displayed in color according to Clustal-X program parameters. (*) indicates residues conserved in all sequences.